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SCHOOL LUNCH

SCHOOL LUNCH NEWSLETTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION

Field Service Branch
56 Third Street, S. E.
Huron, South Dakota

Bulletin No. 1

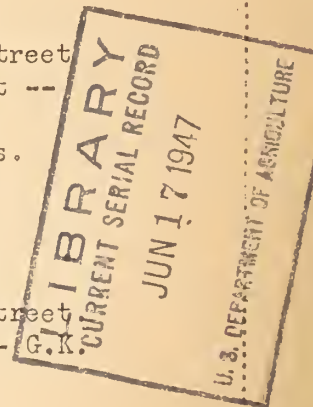
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September 1946

PLEASANT STREET

The folks that live in Pleasant Street
Are just the kind you like to meet --
Smiling lips and twinkling eyes
That make you think of sunny skies.

They always have a word to say
That sends you happy on your way.
It gives new zest to merely meet
The folks that live in Pleasant Street.



SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

When President Truman signed on June 4 the National School Lunch Act, Public Law No. 396, he said: "We have the technical knowledge to provide plenty of food for every man, woman, and child in this country, but we have often failed to distribute it as well as we could. The School Lunch Act represents a basic forward step toward correcting this failure."

This year, for the first time since Federal help to school lunch programs began, the program will be based on a specific act of Congress providing permanent legislation.

Heretofore, the School Lunch Program has been based upon authority granted by Congress to the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of assisting in solving the problems of farm surplus and seasonal abundances. The National Act now provides that aid shall be given schools in feeding children not only because of the additional outlets for farm products it creates, but primarily because, as Congress also recognizes, better nutrition for children is a matter of sufficient importance in itself.

The Federal funds appropriated each year for the School Lunch Program will be given to the Secretary of Agriculture for distribution to the various States to be handled and disbursed by a state agency. The Governor of each state is called on to designate a state agency to handle the School Lunch Program. In South Dakota, the Governor has designated at present the State Department of

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Social Security to administer the program regarding public schools. However, according to existing state law, the state agency in South Dakota is not permitted to disburse funds to private or parochial schools. Therefore, under the provisions of the National Act, disbursement of school lunch funds to non-profit private and parochial schools will be handled directly by the Production and Marketing Administration office at Huron.

NEW PROVISIONS:

Under the new act, schools can claim only for meals served on days that a bona-fide and recognized school was in session. Therefore, schools operating dormitories and other multiple-meal programs can receive reimbursement for only the actual number of school days on which lunches or meals were served during the week. Reimbursement is based on only one meal (noonday meal) per child per operating day as herein explained, and in line with provisions of the agreement.

PROGRAM OPERATIONS AND CLAIMS

No reimbursement can be claimed by sponsors for meals or lunches served prior to the effective date given in Paragraph 1, of the approved Agreement. This date is set when the application is approved and the agreement signed by an authorized representative of the United States Department of Agriculture. Sponsors will be advised of this date by letter of approval from the USDA. Such claims and program operations must be strictly in accordance with the provisions of the executed agreement.

CHANGES IN PROCEDURE

Under the provisions of the national legislation, every dollar of Federal school lunch money expended in the state must be matched with a dollar of state money used in the lunch program. The state matching dollar can be made up of items such as donated goods and services, money paid by children for lunches, or expended by the state or local governments as sponsoring agencies of lunch programs. Therefore, it will be of utmost importance that all sponsors make accurate and complete statements on their Claim For Reimbursement, Form FP-6.

CLOSER WATCH NEEDED IN BOOKKEEPING

Because of the matching provisions and because of the permanent status of the School Lunch Program under Public Law 396, a system of closer bookkeeping will be needed in schools for the lunch program. It will be essential that all income from the program be accurately recorded and, in the case of a bookkeeping transfer of a sum from one school fund to the lunch program, it should be included as income. Conversely, too, an accurate and complete account of all expenditures for the program must be maintained.

REPORTS

Under the program this year the only report required is on Form FP-6 which constitutes the sponsor's claim for reimbursement. This report is due at the office of the Production and Marketing Administration, Field Service Branch, Huron, S. D., no later than the 10th day of the month following the month of operation

for which claim is being made. The claim form is nearly the same as the form used last school year.

To avoid delays in receipt of payments, sponsors should carefully follow the instructions on the reverse of the form, point by point. Particular attention should be given to accuracy of figures placed on the form, since it constitutes your claim against the United States Government.

ABUNDANT FOODS

The September "abundant foods" list is included with this Newsletter. The items shown as being in abundance in South Dakota for September have been determined as such through contact with food producers, suppliers, and trades people throughout the state.

According to section 13 of your agreement such foods will be purchased in as large a quantity as can be efficiently utilized. They constitute good "buys" for the school because of their abundance and relatively reasonable price, and purchases of these items will provide a larger and wider outlet also for products produced by South Dakota farmers.

SUGAR FOR SCHOOL LUNCHES

Relative to the securing of ration allowances of sugar in connection with school lunch programs, application as "institutional user" should be made by sponsors directly to the District Office of Price Administration, Wilson Terminal Building, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEWS

Representatives from this office will be in the field making calls on schools, operating school lunch programs, for the purpose of assisting sponsors in any problems they may have in their lunch programs. The men calling on schools throughout South Dakota are Theodore Nickisch, Arthur Siemers and Harold Ristow.

In addition to regular Administrative Reviews, the office of Production and Marketing Administration at Huron stands ready to assist any school or sponsor in matters pertaining to their School Lunch Program. Feel free to write us at any time.

NEW TWISTS TO OLD PROBLEMS

Any schools who have worked out satisfactory solutions of problems of space, help, purchasing or serving, should let this office know so that the information can be passed on to other schools who may be faced with similar problems.